

Downtown & Waterfront Plan

Burlington Moving Forward

PROJECT SUMMARY

The development of a land use and development plan for Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront has been a long-standing action-item in the City Municipal Development Plan since at least 1996. In September 2009, the City Planning Commission and Dept. of Planning & Zoning were directed by the City Council to develop a scope of work, timeline, and budget for such a project. While many other planning efforts involving the downtown or waterfront have taken place over the years, none have been as comprehensive in scope and strategic in design.

In the Fall 2010, the City of Burlington was awarded a Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which provides a unique opportunity to invest in the future, and advance Burlington's place as one of America's most livable and sustainable communities.



The plan will refine broad city-wide goals for sustainable development into focused, actionable, area-specific strategies to ensure the vitality of the central core of our community and enable us to achieve our community vision. The planning process will place an emphasis on ways to promote and improve mixed uses and quality urban design, affordable and workforce housing, transportation and parking management, and the quality and capacity of public infrastructure. Our intent is to identify, understand, and address current barriers to the creation of new infill development. At the same time we need to make the hard decisions necessary to facilitate the continued evolution and maturation of this vital and dynamic mixed use district.

The planning process we are about to undertake will help us address many questions regarding the future of Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront including:

- How to encourage and accommodate infill development on under-utilized sites - particularly for workforce housing and office uses?
- How to enhance Burlington's economic vitality and build upon our creative and entrepreneurial spirit?
- How to support additional development without compromising important views and Burlington's character and scale?
- How to balance mitigation of traffic congestion and parking demand with desires for expanded public transit?
 - How to leverage future downtown development to facilitate and support expanded public transit service and visa-versa?
 - What kinds of waterfront activities and improvements can we encourage without compromising public access to the lakeshore?
- What land-side improvements are necessary to support future harbor activities?
- What public investments can we make that improve lake quality, reduce stormwater overflows, save energy, and improve traffic flow and safety?
- How to encourage and support more "green" building and development?
- How to grow smarter and use our compact mixed-use urban form as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

There is a lot of work ahead and we need YOUR help, engagement and input to make this process successful!

Downtown & Waterfront Plan

Burlington Moving Forward

Project Phases

Phase 1 - Existing Conditions Analysis

(Summer-Fall 2011)

- Development Inventory and Modeling
- Economic Analysis
- Infrastructure Analysis
- Transportation & Parking
- Waterfront Progress Report
- Climate Change & Energy Considerations

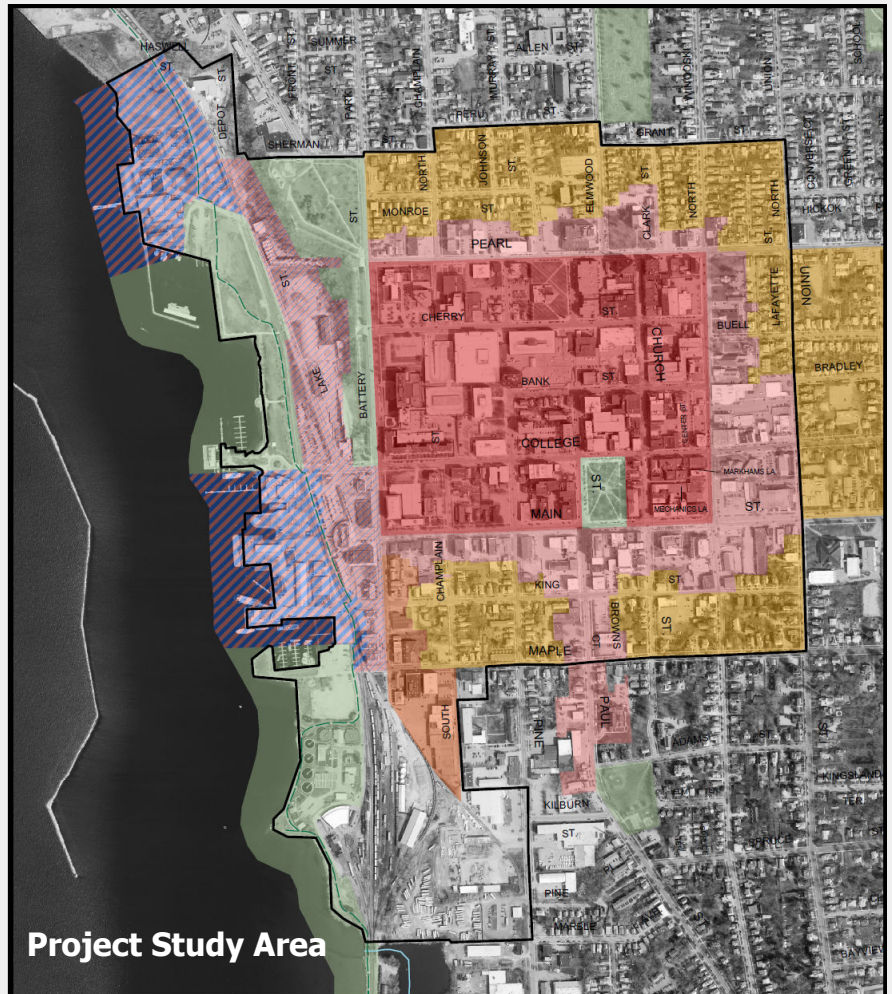
Phase 2 - Downtown & Waterfront Master Planning Process

(Fall 2011-Winter 2012)

- Vision for Downtown & Waterfront
- Concepts and Alternatives Development
- Implementation Plan
- Drafting the Plan

Phase 3 - Development of Regulatory Changes to the City Development Ordinance

(Spring-Summer 2012)



Get involved

To demonstrate its commitment to informing, educating and involving the public during the Downtown & Waterfront planning process, the Planning Commission has developed a Public Outreach and Engagement Strategy. This strategy includes the following guidelines:

1. The public should engage in decisions about actions that affect their lives.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will be considered in the decision-making process.
3. The public participation process:
 - communicates the interests and considers the needs of all participants;
 - seeks out and facilitates involvement of those potentially affected by the Downtown & Waterfront Plan;
 - provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way; and
 - communicates to participants how their input influenced the decisions

For more information visit our website at: http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning/comp_plan/downtown_waterfront_plan/

Stay on top of the latest news on the project with **FACEBOOK** at **Burlington Downtown & Waterfront Plan.**